

Message Text

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ACTION ARA-10

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 ARAE-00 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-04 H-01
INR-07 L-03 NSAE-00 NSC-05 PA-01 PRS-01 SP-02
SS-15 USIA-06 MCT-01 ACDA-07 EB-08 COME-00 /072 W
-----121300Z 035920 /50

P 121220Z APR 77
FM AMEMBASSY BOGOTA
TO SECSTATE WASHDC PRIORITY 921

C O N F I D E N T I A L BOGOTA 3277

EO. 11652: GDS
TAGS: ASEC, PINS, CASC, CO
SUBJECT: MILITARY TAKES HARD LINE ON DEALS WITH KIDNAPPERS

1. ACCORDING TO LOCAL PRESS AND RADIO REPORTS, A DEFENSE
MINISTRY SPOKESMAN STATED LAST WEEK THAT THE ARMED FORCES WOULD
REFUSE TO MAKE "DEALS" WITH GUERRILLAS FOR THE RELEASE OF
CAPTURED PRISONERS. THE ANNOUNCEMENT WAS IN APPARENT RESPONSE
TO REPORTED DEMANDS BY THE LEFTIST GUERRILLA GROUP ELN THAT
ELN PRISONERS IN THE HANDS OF GOVERNMENT AUTHORITIES BE
RELEASED IN EXCHANGE FOR A BANK EXECUTIVE, ITALIAN NATIONAL
GIUSEPPE MONDINI, KIDNAPPED ON MARCH 11.

2. COMMENT: THE DEFENSE MINISTRY STATEMENT IS THE LATEST
ARTICULATION OF GOC POLICY ON DEALING WITH DEMANDS FROM
KIDNAPPERS. THIS POLICY HAS GENERALLY PROHIBITED THE PAYMENT
OF RANSOM OR ANY OTHER QUID PRO QUO IN KIDNAPPING CASES,
AND HAS BEEN ENFORCED ON A NUMBER OF OCCASIONS WHEN AUTHORITIES
HAVE IMPEDED RANSOM PAYMENTS. ON OTHER OCCASIONS, HOWEVER,
SUCH AS IN THE COOPER AND SUARMIENTO KIDNAPPINGS, THE
GOC HAS SUSPENDED THIS POLICY AS A RESULT OF DIRECT
INTERVENTIONS WITH PRESIDENT LOPEZ BY ASSOCIATES OR
FAMILIES OF THE KIDNAP VICTIMS.

3. COLOMBIAN LEGISLATION PROVIDES SOME LATITUDE IN THESE
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MATTERS. ALTHOUGH THERE IS NO SPECIFIC LEGAL PROHIBITION
REGARDING RANSOM PAYMENTS, MORE GENERAL LEGISLATION DOES
EXIST WHICH CAN BE APPLIED AGAINST RANSOM PAYMENTS IF THE
GOVERNMENT SO WISHES.
DREXLER

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Message Attributes

Automatic Decaptioning: X
Capture Date: 01-Jan-1994 12:00:00 am
Channel Indicators: n/a
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Copy: SINGLE
Sent Date: 12-Apr-1977 12:00:00 am
Decaption Date: 01-Jan-1960 12:00:00 am
Decaption Note:
Disposition Action: RELEASED
Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Case Number: n/a
Disposition Comment: 25 YEAR REVIEW
Disposition Date: 22 May 2009
Disposition Event:
Disposition History: n/a
Disposition Reason:
Disposition Remarks:
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Document Unique ID: 00
Drafter: n/a
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Executive Order: GS
Errors: N/A
Expiration:
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Handling Restrictions: n/a
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ISecure: 1
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Litigation Codes:
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